



B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

A N N U A L R E P O R T

FOR THE YEAR 1940

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(L. GIBSON, M.B., D.P.H.)



The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Beccles.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1940.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in Acres)	2017
Registrar General's estimated of the population mid 1940	6708
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940)	2116
Rateable Value	£35325
Penny rate - estimated net produce	£137

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	Males	Females	
Live Births:-				
Legitimate	82	43	39	} Birth rate per 1000 estimated resident population - 12.37
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Still Births	2	0	2	
Deaths	107	58	49	Death rate per 1000 - 15.95
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes (Heading 30) 1.- Rate per 1000 live and still births 10.75				
		Males	Females	Total
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		2	3	5
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-				
All infants per 1000 live births				56.18
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births				56.81
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
" Measles	0
" Whooping Cough	0
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Comparison of 1940 with previous years:-

Year:-	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	England & Wales. 1940
Population: Census	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Estimated (a)	6524	6426	6408	6399	6708	-
" " (b)	-	-	-	6655	-	-
Births	80	87	83	71	83	-
Birth rate per 1000	12.26	13.54	12.95	11.1	12.37	14.6
Deaths	88	111	86	86	107	-
Death rate per 1000	13.49	17.3	13.4	12.9	15.95	14.3
Death rate with comparability factor	10.66	13.6	10.6	10.2	13.4	-
Standardized death rate	8.7	11.2	8.7	8.4	10.98	-
Infant deaths	1	2	2	2	5	-
Infant mortality rate	12.5	22.9	24.1	27.8	56.2	55
Cancer death rate	1.84	3.73	2.49	1.65	1.93	1.719
Respiratory tuberculosis death rate	Nil	0.93	0.31	0.75	0.59	0.587

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. L. Gibson, M.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector : Mr. C. L. Hamby, M.I.M.C.E.
Meat Inspector : Mr. J. C. Taylor, M.R.C.V.S..

They are part-time Officers of the Council.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Since April, 1938, infectious diseases have been treated at the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital in return for payment of a proportion of their annual charges.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Motor Ambulance of the Beccles Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade is available for the removal of non-infectious or accident cases. This service has proved adequate and satisfactory.

Infectious cases are removed by the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Clinic continues to progress satisfactorily. The Centre was opened every Tuesday afternoon at the Red Triangle Hut until 17th September, when the Centre was transferred to the Rectory Room, Ballygate.

The Medical Officer of Health is in attendance assisted by the nurses from the Nurses' Home.

The following are comparative figures:-

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Average weekly attendance	40	48	37	33	27	21	31	31	42	32	29
New cases during year	72	58	64	43	41	29	41	66	86	38	63

The Centre was opened on 51 occasions and a doctor attended all the sessions.

There were 35 children under 1 year of age who attended and put in 662 attendances.

There were 108 children between 1 and 5 years of age who put in 827 attendances.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA

The property in the Borough is inspected from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

These investigations resulted in the service of 7 informal notices.

WATER SUPPLY

2173 premises are supplied by the Company, deducting 45 places of business leaves 2128 houses supplied. The supply has been adequate and satisfactory.

During the year a Chlorination plant has been installed.

The monthly bacteriological examinations give the following results:-

Bacteria growing on
Agar for 48 hrs. at 37°C. B. Coli absent in 100 c.c

January	0	"
February	0	"
March	1	"
April	0	"
July	0	"
August	1	"
September	0	"
October	0	"
November	2	"
December	0	"

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Early in the year slaughtering was restricted to 2 slaughterhouses and later on to 1 only.

MEAT INSPECTION

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 255 visits have been made and 5124 carcasses inspected. This is an increase on last year when 1871 carcasses were inspected.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1478		455	5115	376
Number inspected	819	136	236	3606	327
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcase condemned	0	3	2	18	13
Part carcase condemned	277	34	0	316	30
Percentage diseased of number inspected	33.8	27.2	0.85	9.26	13.15
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcase condemned	2	15	0	0	1
Part carcase condemned	13	4	0	0	11
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.8	13.9	0	0	3.7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	4	0	0
Diphtheria	5	2	1
Enteric Fever	1	0	0
Polio-myelitis	1	0	0
Encephalitis Acute	1	0	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	3	0
Whooping-cough	2	0	0
Measles	1	0	0

AGES OF CANCER DEATHS

Males: 12, 37, 53, 55, 61, 65, 67, 71, 72 and 76.
Females: 65, 71 and 94.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods:-	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 "	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
15-25 "	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
25-35 "	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 "	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 "	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

On the Register at the beginning of the year there were 21 respiratory cases (14 males and 7 females) and 5 non-respiratory (3 males and 2 females)

During the year 6 respiratory (2 males and 4 females) and 2 non-respiratory (both females) were added, including 2 notified otherwise than by notification, i.e. they moved into the district.

Of those on the Register 4 respiratory (1 male and 3 females) and 2 non-respiratory (1 male and 1 female) died, and 1 male respiratory removed, leaving at the end of the year 21 respiratory (13 males and 8 females) and 6 non-respiratory (3 males and 3 females)

One case had not been notified.

8 cases received Sanatorium treatment.

EVACUATION

At the beginning of June the Borough was made a neutral area, and the evacuees remaining were sent elsewhere.

I wish to tender to the Sanitary Inspector and other Borough Officials my best thanks for their kind assistance during the year.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

9th August, 1941.

